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FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0381
INFO RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY 7014
RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO PRIORITY 7339
RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA PRIORITY 2666
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY 5381
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 6513
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 3100
RUEHSA/AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY 0258
RUEHCI/AMCONSUL KOLKATA PRIORITY 4650
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 2348
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 3569
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC PRIORITY
RHMFISS/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 000552

SIPDIS

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [NP](#)

SUBJECT: NEPAL: THIRD CABINET EXPANSION

REF: KATHMANDU 522

Classified By: Ambassador Nancy J. Powell. Reasons 1.4 (b/d).

Summary

[1](#)1. (U) On June 24 Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal expanded his cabinet for a third time, swearing in five ministers and one state minister. The expansion brings in two more ministers for Madhesi People's Rights Forum (MPRF), two from the second largest Terai-based party, the Terai Madhes Democratic Party (TMDP), and one from the small National Democratic Party (Rastriya Prajatantrik Party, RPP). The new State Minister represents a minor leftist party, the Communist Party of Nepal - Marxist Leninist (CPN-ML).

Cabinet Additions

[1](#)2. (U) The new Ministers are:

Tourism and Civil Aviation - Sharat Singh Bhandari (MPRF)
Agriculture and Cooperatives - Mrigendra Kumar Singh Yadav (MPRF)
Education - Ram Chandra Kushbaha (TMDP)
Youth and Sports - Ganesh Nepali (TMDP)
Forest and Soil Conservation - Deepak Bohora (RPP)

The new State Minister is:

Land Reforms - Man Bahadur Shahi (CPN-ML)

Comment

[1](#)3. (C) The expansion solidifies Madhesi support for the cabinet, but even within the two main Madhesi parties dissatisfaction with leaders and portfolio distribution remains. Both the MPRF ministers named belong to Gachhadar's faction of the party, and divisions with the Upendra Yadav-led faction do not appear to be lessening. Unhappiness over their positions may also explain why two others from TMDP named to the cabinet, Mahendra Prasad Yadav (Industry Minister) and Dan Bahadur Chaudary (State Minister for Industry), did not participate in the swearing-in ceremony on June 24. At least one more expansion is needed

for the cabinet to take full shape. In the meantime, the parties remain more focused on internal disputes than moving the peace process forward.

POWELL